

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 34,~~ A method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover material; and

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover material, wherein the drawing force is produced by depositing the cover material onto an elastically compressible base of the interior vehicle component,

wherein the moisture content of the cover material after moistening in the treatment chamber is between approximately 2 percent and 10 percent by weight.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the moisture content of the cover material after moistening in the treatment chamber is approximately 5 percent.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 47, further comprising the steps of-measuring the moisture content of the cover material, and continuing moistening until a predetermined moisture content is reached.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of directly measuring the moisture content of the cover material.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 34,~~ A method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover material; and

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover material, wherein the drawing force is produced by depositing the cover material onto an elastically compressible base of the interior vehicle component,

wherein the step of moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber comprises providing the treatment chamber at an air temperature of between approximately 100 degrees Celsius and approximately 150 degrees Celsius.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the step of moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber comprises providing the treatment chamber at an air temperature of between approximately 125 degrees Celsius and approximately 130 degrees Celsius.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 47, wherein the step of moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber comprises supplying steam to the treatment chamber.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of, A~~
method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method
comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover
material, the step of moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber comprising
supplying steam to the treatment chamber;

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover
material, wherein the drawing force is produced by depositing the cover material onto an
elastically compressible base of the interior vehicle component; and

providing an additive to the steam.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the additive comprising
at least one of an particularly odorous substance, a smoothing agent, and a stain-inhibiting agent.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[34]] 47, wherein the step of
moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber is done after depositing the cover
material onto the elastically compressible base.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[34]] 47, wherein the step of
moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber is done subsequent to depositing the
cover material on the elastically compressible base with elastic compression of the base.

47. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of, A~~
method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method
comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover
material;

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover
material, wherein the drawing force is produced by depositing the cover material onto an
elastically compressible base of the interior vehicle component; and

at least partially drying the cover material after the moistening.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the moisture content of the cover material after drying is less than approximately 1.0 percent by weight.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the moisture content of the cover material after drying is between approximately 0.05 percent and approximately 0.25 percent by weight.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of at least partially drying the cover material comprises at least partially drying the cover material in the same treatment chamber as the moistening.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of at least partially drying the cover material comprises at least partially drying the cover material outside the treatment chamber for moistening.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of at least partially drying the cover material comprises at least partially drying the cover material in a second treatment chamber following the treatment chamber for moistening.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising the steps of measuring the moisture content of cover material and drying the cover material until a predetermined moisture content is reached.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising the step of directly measuring the moisture content of the cover material.

55. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of, A~~
method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover material;

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover material, wherein the drawing force is produced by depositing the cover material onto an elastically compressible base of the interior vehicle component;

grouping together a plurality cover materials supported by an auxiliary transportation device; and

supplying the plurality of cover materials to the treatment chamber for moistening.

56. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of, A~~
method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method
comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover
material;

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover
material, wherein the drawing force is produced by depositing the cover material onto an
elastically compressible base of the interior vehicle component; and

subjecting the cover material in the treatment chamber to mechanical processing
employing at least one of brushes and rollers.

57-69. (Canceled)

70. (Currently Amended) An interior vehicle component formed by the method of
Claim [[34]] 47.

71. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a cover material for use with an
interior vehicle component, the method comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover
material;

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover
material; and

measuring the moisture content of the cover material, and continuing moistening
until a predetermined moisture content is reached.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising the step of
directly measuring the moisture content of the cover material.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising the step of at least partially drying the cover material after the moistening.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising the step of drying the cover material until a predetermined moisture content is reached.

75. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a cover material for use with an interior vehicle component, the method comprising:

placing a cover material into a treatment chamber for moistening;

moistening the cover material in the treatment chamber to soften the cover material;

smoothing the cover material by providing a drawing force that extends the cover material; and

at least partially drying the cover material after the moistening in a second treatment chamber following the treatment chamber for moistening that is outside the treatment chamber for moistening.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[34]] 47, wherein the elastically compressible base is formed of a foam material.

77. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[34]] 47, wherein the elastically compressible base is a seat cushion.